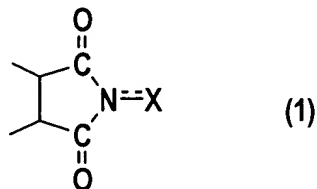


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A process for separating a reaction product and an imide compound having an imide unit represented by the following formula (1):



wherein X represents an oxygen atom, a hydroxyl group, or an acyloxy group, from a reaction mixture obtained by a reaction of a substrate selected from the group consisting of a hydrocarbon, an alcohol corresponding to the hydrocarbon, an aldehyde corresponding to the hydrocarbon, a ketone corresponding to the hydrocarbon, an amine, a heterocyclic compound, a thiol, a sulfide, and an amide, in the presence of the imide compound, wherein the reaction mixture is obtained by (i) oxidizing the substrate with oxygen, (ii) carboxylating the substrate with oxygen and carbon monoxide, (iii) nitrating the substrate with a nitrogen oxide, (iv) sulfonating the substrate with a sulfur oxide, (v) acylating the substrate with a vicinal-dicarbonyl compound, or (vi) radically coupling the substrate with a compound which is radically formable of a carbon-carbon bond,

which process comprises separating said reaction product and said imide compound from said reaction mixture by solvent-crystallizing the imide compound from said reaction mixture with at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of a hydrocarbon, a chain ether, and water, provided that when the hydrocarbon or the chain ether is employed as the solvent for crystallizing the imide compound from the reaction mixture, the reaction mixture is obtained by an oxidation reaction of a monocyclic C₄₋₁₆cycloalkane substrate.

2. (previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein separation of said reaction product is by a solvent-crystallization step in which the hydrocarbon employed as a solvent is an

aliphatic hydrocarbon having 4 to 16 carbon atoms or an alicyclic hydrocarbon having 4 to 16 carbon atoms, and the chain ether employed as a solvent is a diC₁₋₆alkyl ether or a C₁₋₆alkyl C₆₋₁₀aryl ether.

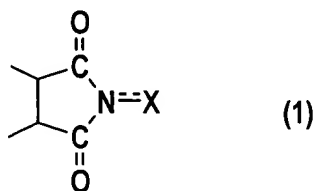
3. (previously presented) The process of claim 2, wherein the imide compound is an aromatic imide compound, and the reaction product is an oxidation reaction product of an alicyclic hydrocarbon or an alicyclic alcohol and is soluble in the solvent for crystallization in the solvent-crystallization step.

4.-17. (cancelled).

18. (previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the imide compound is an oxidation catalyst for oxidizing the substrate, and the reaction product is an oxidation reaction product corresponding to the substrate.

19. - 37. (cancelled).

38. (new) A process for separating a reaction product and an imide compound having an imide unit represented by the following formula (1):



wherein X represents an oxygen atom, a hydroxyl group, or an acyloxy group, from a reaction mixture obtained by a reaction of

a substrate selected from the group consisting of cycloalkanes, polycycloalkanes, alicyclic and aromatic alcohols, and aromatic hydrocarbons containing a methyl group or a methylene group in the presence of

the imide compound,

which process comprises separating said reaction product and said imide compound from said reaction mixture by solvent-crystallizing the imide compound from said reaction mixture with at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of a hydrocarbon, a chain ether, and water,

wherein the reaction mixture is obtained by (i) oxidizing the substrate with oxygen, (ii) carboxylating the substrate with oxygen and carbon monoxide, (iii) nitrating the substrate with a nitrogen oxide, (iv) sulfonating the substrate with a sulfur oxide, (v) acylating the substrate with a vicinal-dicarbonyl compound, or (vi) radically coupling the substrate with a compound which is radically formable of a carbon-carbon bond.